

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is requested. Claims 2, 4, 6-8, 10-12, 14, 17, 30 and 33 have been amended. Claims 2-4, 6-17, 19-31 and 33 are pending. Of those, claims 17 and 33 are independent claims.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REQUESTED

Applicant requests entry of this Amendment after Final because the claims have been amended to put the present application in condition for allowance. For example, rejected claims 1 and 32 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 17 has been amended to include features somewhat similar to those set forth in allowed claim 33. In addition, the amendments made herein do not raise any new issues requiring further consideration and/or search.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant again acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter set forth in claims 5-9, 30 and 31, and the allowance of claim 33.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 17, 26-28, 30 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,734,718 ("Pan"); claims 3, 10-16 and 19-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Pan and U.S. Patent No. 6,392,904 ("Bayer"); and claims 4 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,208,196 ("St. Pierre") and Pan.

By way of this response, Applicant has canceled rejected claims 1 and 32, and amended claim 17 to include features somewhat similar to those set forth in allowed claim 33. Accordingly, allowance of pending claims 2-4, 10-17 and 19-29 is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of above remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding rejection and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

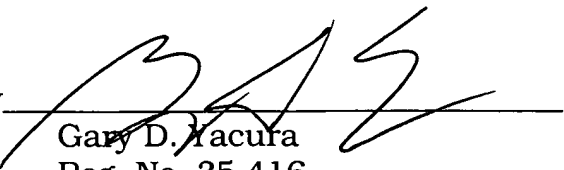
If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, PLC

By


Gary D. Macura
Reg. No. 35,416

GDY/AMW:jcp

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, VA 20195
(703) 668-8000